



AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

FRANCE AND THE UN

What will happen as a result of France's walking out of the UN General Assembly? Will she finally decide to resign entirely from the world organization? Is her action a bad precedent for other nations, and will it weaken the UN? Was the General Assembly right or wrong in voting to take up the matter of the civil strife in Algeria, which is not a colony of France but a definite part of that country?

These questions, along with other vital international problems, will be discussed in the special UN issue of this paper next week.

SOVIET EXPEDITION

Russia has announced that it will send several scientific expeditions to the Antarctic beginning this fall. Two ships and several airplanes will leave soon for a 2-year stay near the South Pole. The scientists will set up 3 bases in the region to study the depth, movement, and general character of the ocean in that area. None of the Soviet bases is expected to be near a United States Antarctic expedition also scheduled to get under way some time this fall.

U. S. TEACHERS ABROAD

About 1,400 American school teachers began their school year recently in Europe. They teach at 107 elementary and high schools operated by the Army. Their students are the children of Army personnel stationed in Europe and North Africa. The high school students whose parents are stationed in North Africa stay in dormitories operated by the schools.

SPANISH TREASURE

Spain has agreed to let a British company try to recover a sunken treasure off the Spanish coast. The precious gold, silver, and pearls were the cargo of several Spanish ships that were sunk in 1702. The treasure is valued at 70 million dollars.

URANIUM HUNT

Want to know where the best deposits of uranium in the United States are? Don't get a geiger counter—all you need is 50 cents. Copies of an Atomic Energy Commission map showing the important uranium deposits in this country are now available to the public. Send 50 cents to the Geological Survey, Washington 25, D. C.

TECHNICOLOR ROADS

An Italian asphalt company is experimenting with colored asphalts to make tinted highways. If the tests work, roads of the future might come in variations of red, green, brown and yellow. Besides reducing glare, the colored roads could be used for directing drivers. For instance: follow the red road to New York, and the brown one to Boston.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? Will the free world and communist lands reach agreements to increase trade with one another? That question is the subject of much discussion and debate at this time.

Trade with the Reds

Soviet Russia Wants to Do More Business with Free World.
Would It Be Wise to Relax Present Policy?

TRADE between the free world and the communist lands is the subject of much controversy this fall.

Russian officials say that their country wants to buy more U. S. goods. Some Americans feel that we should try to sell more goods to the Soviet Union. Others feel that any sizable expansion of trade with Russia by us or our allies would be neither wise nor profitable at this time.

Precisely what lands are involved in this controversy?

On the side of the free world are the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, and other countries which have been closely allied with us in recent years. The communist lands include Russia, the Red-dominated lands of eastern Europe (Hungary, Poland, etc.), Red China, and other communist areas in Asia such as North Korea and North Viet Nam.

Newspapers sometimes call this dispute the East-West trade controversy, but the term is inaccurate. Not all eastern countries are communist; for example, Japan and the Philippines are allied with the free world. On the other hand, Czechoslovakia is geo-

graphically a western land, yet it is under Red control.

What is the background of the trade issue?

For a year or two after World War II, trade between the free world and the communist lands proceeded normally. Then it became plain that the Soviet Union was out to extend its power as far as it could. Thriving trade between the Red nations and the free lands became a casualty of the cold war.

When Russia's aggressive intentions became clear, our leaders were determined not to make the mistake we made before World War II. At that time, we sold scrap steel to Japan. It was made into arms for the military forces of the country we later had to fight in a long and bloody conflict.

Thus, in 1949, the United States and its allies decided not to sell certain kinds of goods to communist countries. The banned products—called "strategic goods"—included weapons and many kinds of industrial equipment which could be directly used to strengthen the military power of the Red nations.

(Continued on page 6)

Nation Having Prosperous Year

But Farmers' Incomes Do Not Keep Pace with Those of Most Other Groups

FOR American business and industry, 1955 is a record year. Our nation is on its way toward the largest annual production of goods and services in history—estimated at more than 380 billion dollars' worth. Automobile makers expect a record output of 8,000,000 cars during 1955. All-time high marks have been reached in the manufacture of steel, in money spent for new buildings, and so on.

There are more jobholders in the United States now than ever before—about 65,500,000. Large numbers of these workers have received wage boosts during the last several months, so that they and their families can spend an increased amount of money on clothing, furniture, cars, and other items.

In short, our country is enjoying a great business boom. But, unfortunately, the picture isn't 100 per cent bright and optimistic. There are some serious problems and difficulties.

In the first place, many people feel that they are not sharing sufficiently in this wave of prosperity. The farmers, as a group, have seen their total income drop considerably during recent years.

Also there are geographic areas where, for one reason or another, business has been relatively slow. Parts of New England have experienced above-average unemployment among textile workers and others.

While there is concern because various groups are not reaping the full benefits of our nation's economic boom, many observers are even more worried about the boom itself. They think it might be "getting out of hand." Such observers fear that the American people are on a bigger "buying spree" than they can really afford.

It is pointed out that *installment credit* is, to a large extent, responsible for the heavy purchases which now keep America's stores busy and her factories humming. More and more people—confident that their wages and salaries will remain high and steady for a long period of time—are using the "buy now and pay later" system to obtain such items as cars and television sets. Three fifths of all the automobiles bought last year were purchased on some type of "easy payment" plan.

Installment credit is rising to record heights. It now totals about 25½ billion dollars, having gone up 3 billion during 1955.

Besides piling up a huge installment debt, our people have also borrowed vast sums of money to buy houses. American homes are mortgaged (indebted) to a total of well above 80 bil-

(Concluded on page 2)

Business and Industry Boom, but Farm Prices Drop

(Concluded from page 1)

lion dollars. This is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as the home-mortgage debt existing at the close of World War II.

There are advantages, as well as dangers, in the use of mortgages and installment credit. "Easy payment" plans enable a family to enjoy the use of a house, car, or new refrigerator while still earning the money to pay for it. Also, such programs encourage people to buy more goods than they would purchase otherwise. This stimulates business, helps to keep the factories busy, and provides jobs for large numbers of workers.

On the other hand, installment credit involves some risk for the individual and for the nation as a whole. Look, for example, at the wage earner who is carrying a heavy burden of monthly payments. Perhaps he is paying regularly on a house, a car, and various items of furniture. Suppose he suffers a long illness or loses his job. In either case, he probably won't be able to keep up all the payments. Many of the items he has purchased on credit may go back to the sellers or to a finance company.

Setbacks Possible

Business experts caution the American people that our national economy can be expected to take an occasional swing downward. In any such decline, quite a few people may temporarily lose their jobs, or in other ways suffer reductions of income. If these people are carrying heavy burdens of installment debt, they will be in poor shape to weather the storm. Many Americans were caught in this predicament by the tragic depression of the 1930's. Their plight undoubtedly added much to the severity of that great economic crisis.

Today, economists warn the general public to use moderation about going into debt—and not to assume recklessly that the present boom will last forever. Sooner or later, business conditions will slacken. Recovery, in any such case, will be more difficult if our people are overloaded with debt than if they are not.

Moreover, if people sign away larger and larger portions of their future income through installment buying, their burden of debt and monthly payments will finally mount up to the point where they will have to stop purchasing so much. If large numbers of families are forced to make such cutbacks all at once, this might cause a business decline for the nation as a whole.

There isn't much fear, just now, of a major economic collapse. Nearly everyone expects business to keep up a reasonably good pace. It seems certain that the government must continue spending large sums of money for national defense and other purposes, and that such expenditures will help create jobs and maintain prosperity. Most observers feel that occasional setbacks—such as the sharp stock-market decline which occurred when President Eisenhower became ill—do not foreshadow a depression.

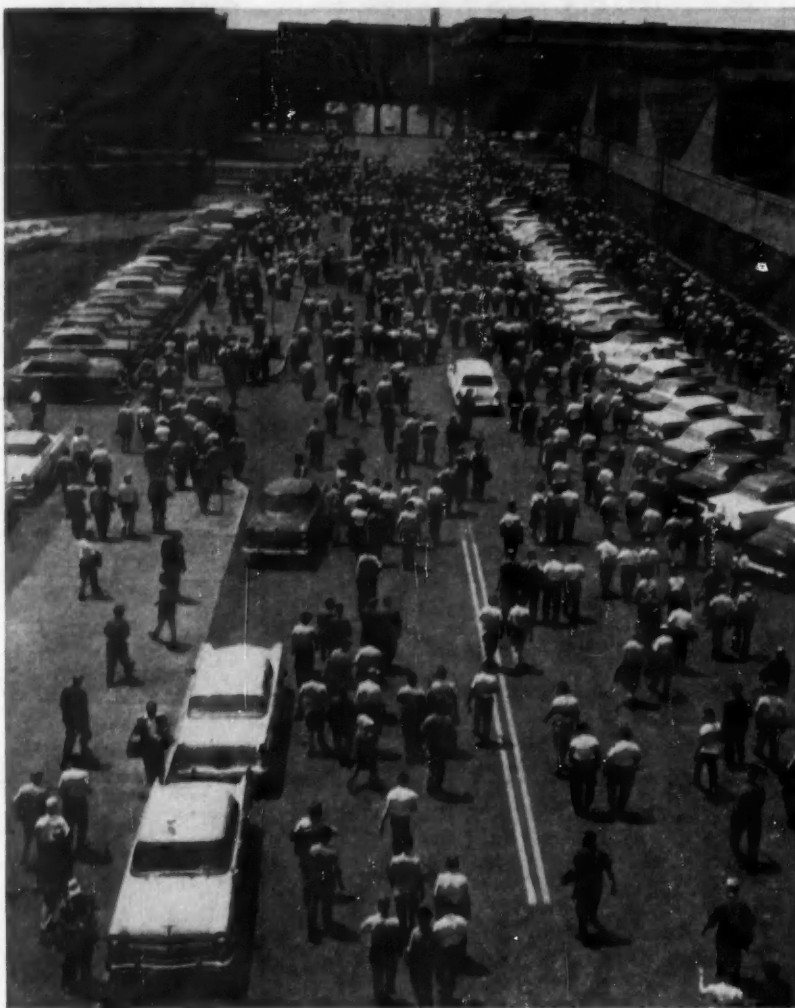
Meanwhile, it is generally believed that our nation can best be kept prosperous if we prevent the current business boom from getting out of hand. Many observers think the severity of the stock-market break, following President Eisenhower's heart attack, was due in part to the fact that stocks

had climbed extremely high this year and were about ready for a "readjustment" anyway.

Also it is feared that if the present business boom continues unchecked, it might bring a sizable new increase in prices and living costs. When money is very plentiful, and people are clamoring to purchase goods, a price rise is the natural result. But if prices go too high, the public won't be able to buy so much. Then there will be

in the agricultural regions complain that farm income is going down while business and industry thrive.

Farmers get only 6 per cent of the total national income today, compared to more than 10 per cent in 1947. They now receive only 40 cents out of every dollar which the American consumer spends on food, whereas in 1946 they got 52 cents out of each food dollar. Total farm income has fallen by about 30 per cent since 1951. Prices of many



AUTOMOBILE WORKERS on their way to the factory. They've profited from the car industry's sensational output of a record number of cars this year.

a slowdown of the country's business and industry.

Over the last several months, in an effort to keep our economic machinery running at a smooth and steady pace, the U. S. government has gently applied the brakes.

Government agencies tightened up, to a moderate extent, on the conditions under which numerous veterans and other persons can get federal help in obtaining loans for the purchase of homes. Uncle Sam also took steps to make it somewhat more difficult and expensive for banks to grant ordinary business loans. Further limitations were placed upon the use of borrowed money for stock-market trading.

Through these moves, aimed at making money a little harder to obtain, the government hopes to restrain the rate at which our people are borrowing and spending. It remains to be seen how well such measures will keep the boom under control, and our economy running steadily.

With respect to agriculture, meanwhile, Uncle Sam is grappling with a far different kind of problem. So far as most American farmers are concerned, there isn't any boom. People

leading farm products continue to slide downward.

Farmers, of course, are in a much better position than they were during the great depression of the 1930's. But they're dissatisfied because they are not sharing in the current business boom as are most other groups in our population.

Farm problems loom large today on the U. S. political scene. Democrats contend that the farmers are in bad shape economically, and that the Eisenhower administration's agricultural policies are largely to blame. But Eisenhower's Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, denies both these charges.

In the first place, he says, the farm income situation isn't so bad as it has been painted. The United States, he points out, is becoming increasingly a nation of city dwellers, and farm population is declining. Total farm income, while it has dropped considerably, is now divided among a smaller number of farmers than was the case several years ago.

So the average farm income per person, Republican spokesmen argue, hasn't fallen a great deal. It was, in fact, slightly higher in 1954 than in

1950. Heavy sales of agricultural machinery, says Secretary Benson, indicate that the farmers today are fairly prosperous.

Benson also argues that if any party is to blame for sagging farm prices it is the Democrats, because the Truman administration was still in office when the present decline started.

Democrats reply that the Eisenhower administration still hasn't shown enough interest in farm problems—not nearly so much as it shows toward the welfare of businessmen. Democratic spokesmen also contend that the farmers fare badly in comparison to the rest of our population, even if their average incomes are holding steady. This claim is based on the fact that average personal incomes in our nation as a whole have gone up quite rapidly during recent years. Farm earnings, it is argued, haven't begun to keep pace.

There are many observers, meanwhile, who feel that the basic problem—with respect to farm income—goes much deeper than any question of how much "blame" should be placed on one political party or another. These people say:

"The problem is this. Improved agricultural machinery, better seed and fertilizers, and modern farming methods now enable America's farmers to turn out more grain and other products than our nation can use or can sell overseas. As a result, we pile up great surpluses, which naturally drive prices down.

A Comparison

"Though America's farmers are declining in number, they can produce crops on an ever-growing scale. Farm people now make up less than 14 per cent of the country's population, compared to 25 per cent in 1930. But their total production is 54 per cent greater than that of 1930. This is a major reason for the great quantities of surplus grain and other items we are now accumulating.

"By the end of last June, more than 7 billion dollars' worth of farm commodities were in the hands of the federal government. Both the Democrats and the Republicans have grappled with the problem of farm surpluses, and neither party has yet been able to develop a completely satisfactory solution."

The government now requires farmers who raise wheat and various other products to limit their acreage of these crops. At the same time, Uncle Sam operates a price-support program, designed to keep the prices of major farm items from dropping to extreme depths.

Democrats contend that the Eisenhower administration is supporting farm prices at too low a level. Secretary Benson and his supporters deny this charge, arguing that higher-level supports would be costly and unwise. They feel that farmers, in one way or another, must be persuaded to cut down still more on the production of certain crops which continue to pile up surpluses year after year.

Farm questions, for the time being, have shaped up as our country's toughest economic problem. They will receive a great deal of attention in the next session of Congress and in the 1956 Presidential campaign.

Readers Say—

I believe that in order to preserve peace we must be strong and ready to fight an aggressor at all times. The means of our defense, both manpower and equipment, should be strengthened as much as possible without endangering our national budget. The young men of the country should not feel that they have things to do that are more important than serving their time in the armed forces.

BETTY JEAN CLIATT,
Norfolk, Virginia

I do not think that the government needs to draft so many men into the armed services. We are not in an active war at the present time. Therefore, the army should not need as many young men as it has been drafting.

JOHN HISEL,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The traffic problem in our country should be dealt with at once. Congress should agree on some form of a new road-building program. The high accident toll in the states should be cut down by making roads safer.

JEFF THIRY,
Fargo, North Dakota



More money should be spent on public schools. If people spent less on smoking and alcoholic beverages, they could not only spend more money to build up our schools, but would also be helping themselves. Furthermore, I believe that the federal government should aid in improving the school system.

RAYMOND BOWSER,
Alamogordo, New Mexico

Small towns such as the one which I live in should have a civil defense service. There should be practice drills for air raids so that the people will know what to expect if the country is bombed.

BEVERLY PALLISER,
Moberly, Missouri

Last week, this column was devoted entirely to letters about the parents' report card in Stowe, Vermont. We have received a large amount of correspondence on the subject.

A little over half of the writers were opposed to the idea of having parents report on their children's health habits and use of their leisure time. Most of those who took this view felt that a student's time outside of school should be his own to spend as he wishes.

Those who favored the plan wrote that it would improve the health habits of the students, and encourage them to use their spare time wisely. They contend that young people should not be free to engage in the wrong kinds of leisure activities.



BY 1975, you may fly from home to work in 30-passenger helicopters such as this at a speed of 3 miles a minute. Possible developments of this kind are the subject of a new film produced by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Radio-TV-Movies

THE U. S. Chamber of Commerce has just produced a movie predicting scientific and industrial development in the United States for the next 20 years. The film is called "People, Products, and Progress: 1975." It is a color picture and lasts for about half an hour.

The movie was made with the help of various industries and trade associations. They describe some of the new developments and products that they expect to produce in the next two decades to make our lives more comfortable and enjoyable.

Some of the interesting predictions of things to come include the following items:

- (1) Automatic eyes that close windows when it rains.
- (2) Television sets as thin as pictures that hang on the wall.
- (3) Atomic-powered automobiles, trucks, and train engines.
- (4) Telephones with TV screens so

that the speakers can see the party at the other end.

(5) Jet-propelled airliners carrying 200 passengers that will fly across the Atlantic Ocean in 3 hours. Many commuters will travel to work in 30-passenger helicopters that travel 180 miles an hour.

The film also shows the City of Tomorrow. Skyscrapers will be separated by parks and lawns. Elevated super-highways will be commonplace.

This special film was produced for private use. It will not be shown in movie theaters. Copies may be bought or rented for showing before clubs or school classes, or at home. You may obtain information about "People, Products, and Progress: 1975" from your local Chamber of Commerce. If it does not have the film and if you want it, write to the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Relations Department, 1615 H Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Science in the News

WEATHER BUREAU scientists report that a "mountain in the sky" near Bermuda probably has been the cause of the changed course of hurricanes in the past 4 years. The windstorms used to strike Florida 2 or 3 times a year. Lately, they have been missing that state and traveling northwestward across the Carolinas, up the Atlantic coastline to New England, and then into Canada.

The "mountain" which has caused the hurricanes to alter their path is a huge high pressure area near Bermuda. This mass of air has been building up higher and higher for several years, until now hurricanes cannot climb over it as they formerly did. Instead, they are forced to find a new course, which usually crosses the coast in North or South Carolina.

The scientists are not sure how long the hurricanes will follow their new route. They think that sooner or later the air mountain will start to fall, and the hurricanes will return to their traditional path.

A lightning stroke 70 miles long was seen in Texas on a radar scope. It is believed to be the longest ever reported. Weather scientists have been studying lightning flashes on radar sets to try to learn how the lightning originates and where it goes.

A solar battery, deriving its energy from the sun's rays, has been furnishing electrical power for a rural telephone line in Georgia. This experiment is designed to test the possibility of using the sun as a source of power. It is the first time such energy has been used to send telephone conversations over the wires. If successful, the idea may be widely adopted.

Last summer Mars moved closer to the earth than at any other time since 1941. Astronomers all over the world studied and photographed the planet as it spun by.

Astronomers examining the photographs taken last summer have seen a new greenish area that they believe to be living vegetation. The patch is almost as large as the state of Texas. Observers think this may be additional evidence that life of some sort exists on Mars.

Atomic radiation may be used to save aged timbers in ancient churches and wooden relics threatened by insects. British scientists have been experimenting with this method of preserving wood. Tests indicate that small doses of radiation make it impossible for insects to live in wooden structures.

Your Vocabulary

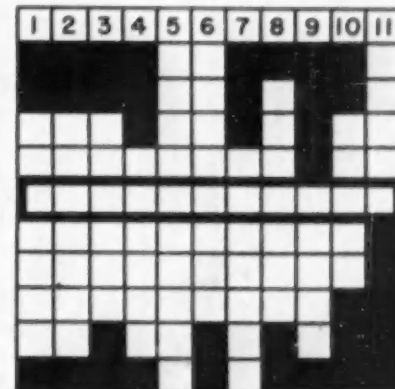
In each sentence below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. He was slain by a *zealot* (zē'lūt).
(a) fanatic (b) wicked person (c) thief (d) enemy.
2. The nation's influence in that area was *preponderant* (prē-pōn'der-ānt).
(a) minor (b) superior to all others (c) weak and unstable (d) well known.
3. A teacher's job can be *enervating* (ēn'er-vā-ting). (a) inspiring (b) dull (c) very tiring (d) invigorating.
4. When we say that Spain's *terrain* (tē-rān') is varied, we mean (a) some of her land is hilly, while other parts are flat (b) her water supply is impure in places and pure in others (c) her people speak a great many languages.
5. That nation has often had *autocratic* (aw-tō-crāt'ik) rulers. (a) generous (b) tyrannical (c) gay (d) foreign-born.
6. To say that *fidelity* (fi-dē'l'i-ti) is required of all military officers, means they must (a) be loyal and faithful to our country (b) wear the right uniform at all times (c) know the Rules of War by memory.
7. When a country is under *martial* (mar'shl) law, it (a) is ruled by married men (b) suspends all criminal laws (c) is under military rule.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered vertical rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell a common household word concerned with credit.

1. Norseman _____, historians say, reached the Western Hemisphere about 500 years before Columbus.
2. New Argentine president.
3. What communist land has asked for more trade with the free world?
4. Politician who is retiring as head of Britain's Labor Party.
5. One of Columbus' ships.
6. In 1519, _____ started a voyage around the tip of South America and into the Pacific Ocean.
7. Capital of Washington.
8. Although business is at record heights generally, the _____ are not doing as well as most other groups.
9. About _____ million cars will be the output for 1955.
10. Another of Columbus' ships.
11. _____ explored Nova Scotia in 1497.



Last Week

HORIZONTAL: Argentina. VERTICAL: 1. Harlan; 2. Peron; 3. eighty; 4. eleven; 5. Warren; 6. wheat; 7. Black; 8. Denver; 9. nine; 10. Italy.

The Story of the Week

Red Arms for Egypt?

Western leaders are worried over the recent turn of events in the explosive Middle East, where Egypt and Israel are at swords' points. A short time ago, Egypt announced that she had made arrangements to buy arms, including tanks, planes, and big guns, from communist Czechoslovakia.

We fear that the purchase of these weapons might set off new violence between Egypt and Israel. Also, arms shipments to the Middle East might give the Reds an important foothold in that troubled corner of the globe.

Earlier, Uncle Sam turned down an Egyptian request for large quantities of jet planes and other heavy arms. We felt that the sale of such weapons to Egypt or any other Middle Eastern land might lead to new outbreaks of violence in that area. We do, however, sell some arms to these countries for home-defense purposes.

The Allies have asked the Reds not to fill Egypt's order for heavy weapons. As of this writing, no promise along this line has been made by the communists.

Hall of Fame

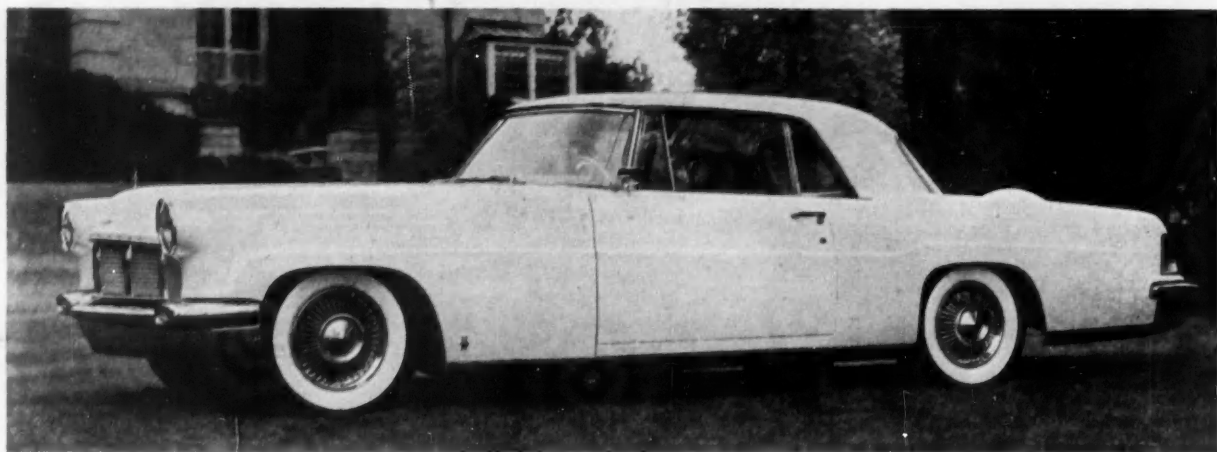
Next Saturday, October 15, a new group of famous Americans will be chosen for a place of honor in the Hall of Fame on the campus of New York University.

Names to be inscribed in the Hall of Fame are chosen once every 5 years by a group of prominent Americans. The selections are made from among nominations sent in by citizens all over the country. Results of this year's selections will be made public on November 1.

Actually, the Hall of Fame is not a real hall at all. It is an open-air colonnade overlooking the Hudson River. Between the columns are niches for the names and sculptured likenesses of outstanding American men and women. Not more than 7 names are chosen for this honor every 5 years.

Thus far, 83 Americans—75 men and 8 women—have been given a place of honor in the Hall of Fame. By the year 2000, all vacancies in the structure are to be filled.

Some prominent public leaders of our past history whose names are inscribed in the Hall of Fame include: George Washington, our first President; Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third Chief Executive; John Marshall,



THE NEW Continental is Ford Motor Company's latest entry in the luxury field. The car is a modern version of the Continental, which was made some years ago and then discontinued. Only 4 feet, 8 inches high, it is 6½ feet wide, over 18 feet long, and costs about \$10,000. Do you want to place your order now, or shop around a bit?

noted Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court in the early 1800's; Henry Clay, a prominent figure in Congress a little over a century ago; and Abraham Lincoln, President during the War Between the States.

Other Americans who have been honored in this way include: Nathaniel Hawthorne, novelist; Robert E. Lee, military chief of the Confederate forces during the Civil War; Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin; Daniel Boone, frontiersman and explorer; Susan B. Anthony, crusader for women's rights; and Booker T. Washington, Negro educator.

People in the News

Clement Attlee, 72-year-old head of Britain's Labor Party, says he will no longer act as leader of that political group. Mr. Attlee, who served as his country's Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951, believes that his party needs "a younger man" to guide its affairs.

The Labor Party is scheduled to hold its annual meeting this month. It is believed that a new party leader will be chosen at that get-together. Whoever is named head of the party is in line to become Britain's Prime Minister in the event of a Labor victory in the next national election.

Eduardo Lonardi. Many countries of the world have already agreed to recognize Argentina's temporary President, Eduardo Lonardi, as the South American land's rightful leader. Lonardi led the successful revolt last month in which former President Juan Peron, who ruled Argentina with an iron hand for many years, was overthrown.

Lonardi says that he will announce plans soon for a nation-wide election. He wants Argentina's voters to elect a new government sometime this winter. Until elections are held, he plans to head his country's government.

The United States officially recognized Argentina's new government within about 48 hours after Lonardi took office. There are only a few other instances in our history in which we recognized new governments as speedily as we did the Lonardi regime. We took this action to demonstrate our good will toward the new government, and to help strengthen its position at home and abroad.

Meanwhile, Lonardi has declared that he will do all he can to strengthen the ties of friendship between his country and the United States.

Better Try Early

If you hope to go to college next year, you should plan to send in your application for admission to the school of your choice as soon as possible. That warning is being made by educators across the nation. School leaders predict that college enrollments next year will be quite a bit larger than they are this year.

About 100,000 more young Americans are on college rolls this fall than there were a year ago. All in all, there are now nearly 3 million students attending colleges and universities throughout the nation. Most of the schools are filled to capacity. In fact, many colleges were forced to turn down large numbers of qualified applicants because there wasn't enough room for them.

Crime Rate Drops

The FBI says that 1955 may be the first year showing a drop in crimes since 1947. The federal agency points out that serious crimes took a slight dip during the first 6 months of 1955 for the first time in about 8 years. From 1947 until this year, the number of crimes committed across the nation has climbed steadily upward.

Despite a slight decrease in the extent of lawbreaking this year, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover says that the nation is still likely to chalk up a shocking total of more than 2 million crimes before 1955 comes to a close. He added that a major crime has been committed about once every 14 seconds during the first 6 months of 1955.

When President Is Ill

President Eisenhower's heart attack has focused attention on what happens when the person elected to that office temporarily can't perform his official duties.

Our Constitution says that the Vice President is to take over the helm of government if the President passes away or if he is unable to serve as Chief Executive for other reasons. But the Constitution doesn't make clear just how the duties of the Presidency should be carried out if the Chief Executive becomes temporarily ill and is unable to handle that strenuous job for a time.

In our history, there have been 2 Presidents—James Garfield and Woodrow Wilson—who were unable to carry out their official duties for fairly long periods of time. Garfield was disabled when he was shot by an assassin July 2, 1881. From that time until his death the following September, Garfield was unable to carry out his duties as President.

Wilson suffered a serious stroke September 26, 1919. For a few months he was unable to assume any official responsibilities whatsoever. During that time, some members of his Cabinet resigned, and, according to a noted historian, the President's administration "went to pieces." Wilson never fully recovered from his illness. However, he carried on his duties to the best of his abilities for the remainder of his term until his successor, Warren G. Harding, took over in March 1921.

Unlike Wilson's administration, in which Vice President Thomas Marshall took little or no active part in White House activities, Eisenhower's Vice President—Richard Nixon—performs many important executive duties. For instance, Mr. Nixon now presides over Cabinet meetings just as he did on other occasions in the past when the President was busy elsewhere.

Of course, there are certain duties, such as making top-policy decisions and signing important papers, which require Presidential action. Legal experts differ on whether or not our Constitution permits the Vice President to assume these powers temporarily if the Chief Executive is incapacitated. This issue may be decided one way or another if President Eisenhower's illness requires him to take a complete rest for a prolonged period of time.



CLEMENT ATLEE is retiring as leader of Great Britain's Labor Party



ARGENTINA'S new president, successor to Peron, is Eduardo Lonardi

Around the Globe

Cambodia, the Southeast Asian land which overwhelmingly voted for a pro-western group led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk a short time ago, has cut its last remaining ties with France. Sihanouk, who is prime minister of Cambodia, says that his country is now completely free of outside controls. Before making its latest move, Cambodia had self-rule but was closely tied with France, particularly in matters of defense and foreign affairs.

Israel has struck it rich! For some time the little Jewish nation has had teams of petroleum experts scouring the countryside in the search for oil. Now, after many fruitless hunts for the precious black fluid, a newly drilled well has struck oil.

Israel is making additional test drills near the site of the producing well. If more oil can be found, one of the Jewish land's biggest problems—the shortage of fuel—may be overcome.

Mexico, according to the land's President Ruiz Cortines, is growing enough food at home to meet the needs of her

was widely used to buy autos. It reached a new high in the 1920's when millions of Americans bought cars, washing machines, radios, and other items on time.

Within the past few years, installment buying has broken all previous records.

Crowded Courts

Later this month, attorneys employed by the United States Justice Department in various parts of the nation will meet in Washington, D. C. They will go over suggestions to speed up trials in our federal courts.

U. S. Deputy Attorney General William Rogers says that at present it takes much too long for individuals to get legal disputes before the federal courts for a decision. The courts are so overloaded with work that it takes months or even years before citizens can get a hearing there.

Mr. Rogers and other legal experts want the federal courts to work longer hours to help clear up the backlog of cases. Federal attorneys, the Deputy Attorney General says, are willing to work day and night until the work of our courts can be brought up to date.

Congress Takes a Look

A Congressional committee is now taking a close look at a proposed agreement between the Air Force and the Bell Telephone System. The Air Force asked Bell to link up 32 U. S.-Canadian radar centers and 8 air combat stations, which help guard the nation against the threat of an enemy air attack. Under the proposed plan, automatic warning devices would take the place of many persons now stationed in these aircraft spotting centers.

The proposed Air Force-Bell contract calls on the private industry to build and operate the new communications lines and rent them to Uncle Sam. The Air Force would agree to pay enough in rental fees—about 2½ billion dollars—to pay for the cost of the project within 10 years' time.

Democrats are highly critical of the Air Force-Bell plan. They contend that the proposed idea is too costly to



BIG BLUEFISH CATCH, perhaps a record haul. Anglers on the expedition off New Jersey's coast are (left to right) the boat captain; 5 Washington, D. C., men who did the fishing—Ellis Block; Robert, Irving and Al Fogel; Michael Edlavitch; and the boat mate. Fishing is one of the nation's most popular forms of recreation. Last year more than 18,000,000 Americans bought fishing licenses.

the government. Anyway, they argue, the Air Force has no authority to make a contract involving such a huge sum of money without the prior approval of Congress.

Administration spokesmen say that the Air Force does, under existing rules, have the right to make such business deals without first consulting Congress. They also point out that the new communications lines are well worth the price, for fewer persons will be needed to operate our radar watchdog centers, thus reducing operating costs and increasing the efficiency of our air warning system.

Congressional investigators plan to make a full report on this issue to Congress when it meets next January.

Next Week's Articles

In connection with United Nations Week, the next issue of this paper will be largely devoted to a discussion of the world organization.

SPORTS

ANGLERS claim that fishing is really America's national sport. They can cite some convincing figures to support their claim. Last year about 18,420,000 Americans bought fishing licenses. Four states—Minnesota, California, Michigan, and Wisconsin—sold more than 1,000,000 licenses each.

Fishing dates far back into the past. Persia was the first nation to add fish to the national diet. Spears were used before lines as a means of catching fish. The first people to use lines were the Egyptians. They employed stout vines to which a burr had been attached. When the fish swallowed the burr, he was hauled in.

One of the largest fish ever landed with a rod-and-reel was a 3,000-pound salt-water sunfish caught off Sydney, Australia. The largest fresh-water fish is the sturgeon, found in Russia's Volga River. One sturgeon, captured near the mouth of the Volga, weighed 2,250 pounds.

The New York Yankees are on their way to the Far East for a series of baseball games with Japanese and U. S. service teams. The trip is being sponsored by a large newspaper chain in Japan. The U. S. and Japanese governments are cooperating in the venture, which they regard as "an outstanding contribution to international understanding and good will."

After a stop in Hawaii for 5 games, the Yankees will be flown to Tokyo. In Japan, they will play 16 games. Practically the entire Yankee squad, including Manager Casey Stengel, was scheduled to make the trip.

The Yankees will find baseball enthusiasm at a high pitch in Japan. The Japanese have played the game for years. Their best teams are known for snappy fielding. As batsmen, the Japanese athletes are generally not as skilled as American players.



THIS LAD, patient at a hospital in Viet Nam, listens wonderingly to his own heartbeat with a stethoscope

28 million people for the first time in history. To win her battle against hunger, Mexico boosted farm output by one fifth during the past year. The increase in agricultural production was achieved largely by ambitious irrigation programs.

Installment Buying

More and more Americans are buying goods on time payment plans (see page 1 story). Installment buying, however, is as old as the nation.

It was used in one form by many of the earliest settlers who came to our shores. Unable to pay cash for their transportation to America, many immigrants entered into contracts or "indentures" with ship owners. According to these contracts, the settlers became "indentured servants" who worked without pay (except food, clothing, and shelter) for several years to repay the debt.

After our nation was founded, large tracts of public land were sold on the installment plan. The Harrison Land Act of 1800, for instance, provided for the sale of western land for \$2 an acre, to be paid in installments over a period of 4 years. A New York City firm began selling furniture on the installment plan as early as 1807.

Installment buying expanded rapidly during the early 1900's when it

THE LIGHTER SIDE

"Pilot to control tower! Pilot to control tower! I'm coming in. Please give me landing instructions."
"Control tower to pilot! Control tower to pilot! Why are you yelling so loud?"
"Pilot to control tower! I don't have a radio."



"Those were the days, huh?"

Son: Dad, doesn't your car get sooty sitting over at the plant?
Dad: No, it's outside the sooty limits.

Nick: That your dog?
Dick: Yes, he used to be a pointer but my mother ruined him.
Nick: How?
Dick: She taught him it wasn't polite to point.

Definition of hamburger: A steak that didn't pass its physical.

Mac: I woke up last night with the feeling that my watch was gone, so I got up and looked for it.
Jack: Was it gone?
Mac: Nope, but it was going!

Joe: There are certainly a lot of girls who don't want to get married.
Jill: How do you know that?
Joe: I've asked them!



THIS isn't happening now, but it may happen again if Russia persuades us to do more business with her. The above 1946 photo shows a ship loading the last of 1,200 railway engines that we built for the Soviet government during and just after World War II. Russian trains, for the most part, are smaller than ours.

Trade Dispute

(Continued from page 1)

After the Korean War broke out, the United Nations recommended that all nations stop sending to China and North Korea articles that would be useful in helping them wage war. Since the 2 countries were actually fighting UN troops, these controls were more strict than those previously imposed on communist lands.

All these trade restrictions are still in effect today. From time to time the list of strategic items has been revised, but it is still a sizable one. It includes between 85 and 90 per cent of the kinds of goods which the Russians were purchasing abroad shortly after World War II.

How have these restrictions affected U. S. trade with communist lands?

Our commerce with Red nations has dropped off considerably. For example, in 1948 we sold the Soviet Union goods worth about \$28,000,000. Last year American sales to Russia totaled only \$219,000.

U. S. purchases from the Soviet Union have also declined, though not so much as our sales. In 1948 we bought \$86,000,000 worth of goods from Russia. Last year the value of our purchases was about \$12,000,000.

Our trade with Red China has dwindled even more. Last year we sold practically nothing to Red China, and bought goods worth only about \$266,000—mainly pig bristles (used in brushes).

How about trade between our allies and the communist lands?

It has dropped, too, but its volume is much greater than that of trade between the U. S. and communist countries. In the past year or two, trade between our European allies and the Red lands has increased considerably, but it is still much below the top levels of the past. If our allies have their

way, however, they will continue to increase their business with Russia and other communist nations.

Are UN controls the only reason for lagging trade between the free world and communist lands?

No. According to trade officials, one of the major reasons for the decline of trade soon after World War II was the Soviet policy of forcing the communist lands to buy and sell among themselves. For some years, Russia tried to have the communist area become self-sufficient, but now she has apparently concluded that the goal cannot be reached.

The nations under Moscow's control are, for the most part, poorly developed. They have to trade with countries outside the communist area in order to live decently.

Why do our allies look more favorably on the future expansion of trade with communist lands than we do?

Most of our European allies as well as Japan in the Far East are more heavily dependent upon trade for their prosperity than we are. They are more inclined to look upon their sales abroad, not in terms of advantages to their trading partners, but as a means of keeping their own industries strong and securing funds to pay for what they must buy abroad.

In 1953, less than 5 per cent of total U. S. production was exported. Yet in the same year, West Germany exported about 14 per cent of its total production, and the Netherlands about 33 per cent. Britain, of course, always depends to a large extent on foreign sales and purchases for her existence. Most of our allies, in fact, have to trade heavily to keep going, since they are less self-sufficient than we are.

Nonetheless, our allies say that they are carefully controlling their trade, and are forbidding the export of strategic, or military, goods to the Reds. At the same time, there is strong pressure from certain groups in most of these countries to expand trade.

Why is the Soviet Union pushing hard for more trade?

For one thing, it would greatly strengthen the communist nations if they could secure all the goods that they wanted from western lands. In general, the Red lands need machinery of all kinds, both for their factories and farms. If they could buy a great deal of equipment from abroad, they

could speed their industrial progress considerably. Whether this progress would be used for the benefit of the people or for the expansion of military power is the big question.

Another fact to keep in mind is that the Russians use trade as one of their important political weapons. U. S. leaders feel that the present Soviet trade campaign is intended partly, at least, to create trouble between us and our allies. The Reds tell our allies that they could be enjoying a prosperous trade with communist lands were it not for the controls favored by the United States.

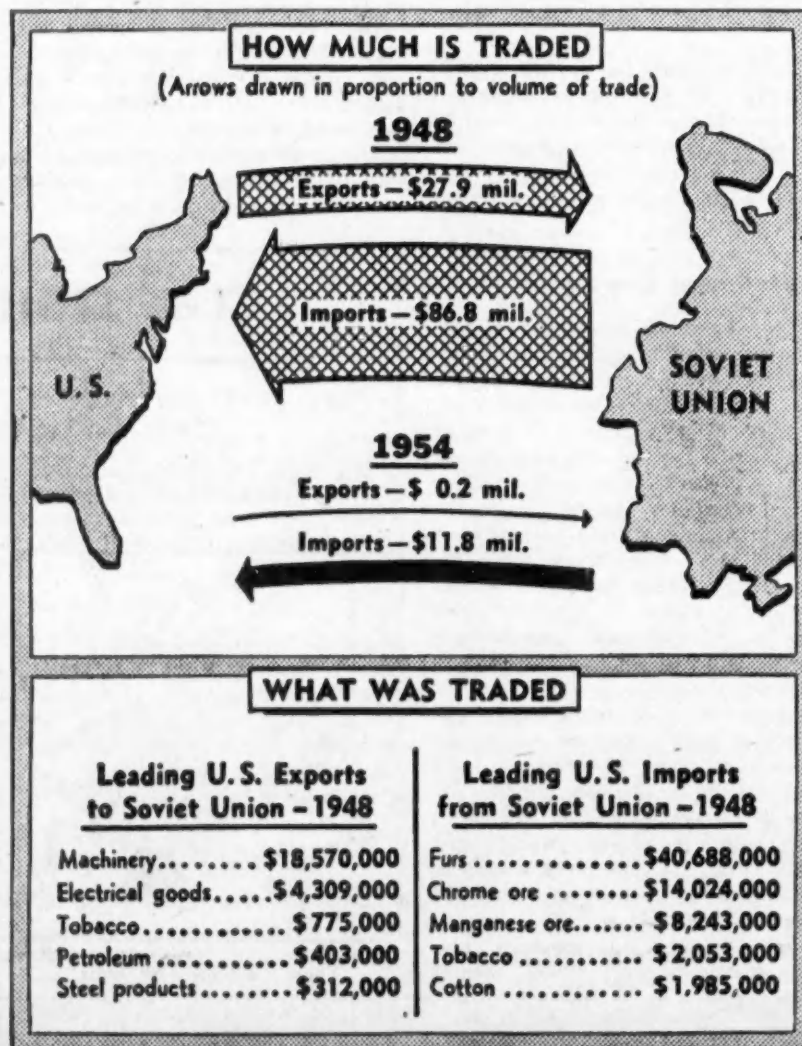
What arguments are put forth by those Americans who think that we should permit more trade with the communist lands?

"The United States would benefit by relaxing trade controls to a limited extent. For example, the communist lands might be a good market for surplus farm products, such as butter, cheese, and lard which our government is holding.

"Last year we sent some \$10,000,000 worth of surplus food to Red-controlled eastern Europe as a gift at the time of the Danube floods. If there is nothing wrong in giving food to such communist-led lands as Czechoslovakia and Hungary, why is there anything wrong in selling it to these countries on other occasions?

"Of course we should not sell these nations actual weapons of war. But if we can trade surplus food for Soviet manganese (used in hardening steel), we would profit by the transaction. There are even certain types of farm and industrial equipment which we might consider selling to Russia if she permits us to buy equally valuable material in return.

"Obviously, we run a risk in selling industrial machinery to Russia. We



UNITED STATES trade with Soviet Russia has fallen off sharply since 1948

cannot be certain whether she will use it for peaceful or military purposes. Even the sale of food to that country may help to strengthen the communist system there.

"On the other hand, if we don't trade with the Russians, their leaders may be even more hostile to us than otherwise, and they may feel compelled to commit acts of aggression in the effort to keep their people united despite their bad living conditions.

"So it is a gamble either way, but there appears to be a greater hope of easing tensions and avoiding war if the free world trades with Russia and the other communist lands than if it refuses to do so. Moreover, our allies will profit by the trade as much as, or more than, Russia will."

What views are put forth by those Americans who oppose any relaxation of controls?

"The pressure which we have put on Russia over the past 6 years or so is paying off. This pressure, exerted through trade controls and other means, has forced her to change her aggressive tactics. On the other hand, there is no evidence as yet that she has changed her long-range goal—a communist-run world. Until she definitely does so, we shall be unwise to relax trade restrictions.

"If we and our allies help the communist governments achieve industrial and agricultural progress, they will be able to strengthen their position among their own people, and then concentrate more than ever on building up their military strength. If, on the other hand, we refuse to trade with the Reds and leave them to their own resources, communism will probably fail to raise living standards as it should, and there is a good chance that the system will collapse as a result of its own failures. As a matter of fact, there is evidence of weakness and dissatisfaction within the communist empire today.

"The Soviet Union has no intention of selling us anything we need unless they get in return strategic goods, such as electric generators and industrial diamonds, which could be used for military as well as peacetime purposes. Khrushchev, the Russian official, said as much in a recent meeting with a group of touring U. S. senators.

"Of course, the communists claim that they are going to use this industrial equipment for helping to raise living standards of their people. We cannot be at all certain, however, that they will not use it instead for armament production. Whatever they do with it, why should we, through trade, help to strengthen a system which is opposed to everything for which democracy stands?"

What steps are being taken to settle this controversy?

The whole question of trade with the communist lands is being studied by top officials in our government. If they decide to relax trade restrictions, most of our allies will be very pleased. If, on the other hand, they don't, it remains to be seen what our allies will do.

In the case of Red China, the decision of whether or not to permit increased trade between her and the free world must be made by the United Nations, since that body has been restricting commerce in the Far East since the Korean War. There is even greater opposition in our country to expanding trade with the Red Chinese than with the Russians.



THE REPUBLIC of Ireland is an independent nation. Northern Ireland is tied to Great Britain as a part of the United Kingdom.

Historic Irish Dispute

Northern Counties Remain with Great Britain, but the South Wants Entire Island Under One Government

FOR hundreds of years, the Irish struggled to gain their independence from England. Today, this ambition is, to a large extent, realized. The Republic of Ireland, occupying over five sixths of the island, is completely free from British rule or influence. It gained self-government in 1921, and became entirely separate from the Commonwealth of Nations in 1941. (The Commonwealth is a free association of nations including Britain and many of her former possessions.)

In the northeastern section of Ireland, there are 6 counties which remain a part of Great Britain. This area is known as Northern Ireland.

Comparative Populations

The Republic, with its capital at Dublin, has a population of about 2,960,000. Northern Ireland has about 1,350,000, a third of whom live in the capital city of Belfast. Most of the people in the Republic are Catholic. They desire a unified Ireland, independent of British rule.

The population of the 6 northern counties is largely Protestant. So far, the Northern Parliament has voted in favor of remaining attached to England rather than joining with the south. Many of the Protestants in the north feel that a united Ireland would place them under the domination of the Catholic majority in the south.

People in the Republic compare their present-day situation with that of the United States at the time of the Civil War. Just as our nation would not allow a minority of its population to break up the Union, the Republic does not feel that a minority of the Irish people should be permitted to destroy the national and geographical unity of the island.

The British, on the other hand, feel that the present situation should continue until the Parliament of Northern Ireland votes otherwise. Britain says

that as soon as the people of the north want to merge with their southern neighbors, they will be allowed to do so.

Although the people living in the two areas differ, the lands themselves are quite similar. As a whole, the island has a mild, moist climate. The average July temperature in Dublin is 58 degrees, and the average January temperature is 40. In Belfast, there is rain almost 200 days out of the year.

Along the seacoast, there are numerous hills which taper into a broad plain in the central part of the island. The shore line, particularly in the west, is indented with countless fiords and inlets. The island is noted for its winding rivers and streams, which are an attraction to tourists.

Ireland's economy is based essentially on her agriculture. A relatively large percentage of the land is suitable for farming. Potatoes, oats, barley, rye, and vegetables are grown in large quantities. Cattle raising is another important enterprise. Cattle account for 35 per cent of Ireland's exports.

Poor in Minerals

The island has few raw materials. Deposits of peat (a form of fuel) are abundant, and there is some coal and bauxite. Iron, lead, and copper are also mined on a small scale. Ireland must buy minerals such as coal, iron, and petroleum from other nations in order to operate her many factories in Belfast, Dublin, and numerous other cities.

A potato famine, which occurred a little more than a century ago, started a great wave of migration from Ireland to other nations. Ireland's population declined over the years and now stands at about 3 million inhabitants. Actually, there are more people of Irish descent in the U. S. today than in Ireland!

Exploring Ideas

By Walter E. Myer

NEXT Wednesday—October 12—is the day on which we commemorate the discovery of America. Upon that date 463 years ago, Christopher Columbus landed in what is today known as the Bahamas. He named the island where he went ashore San Salvador, and claimed a new empire for Spain.

What a triumphant moment it must have been for the Italian-born navigator as he set foot on the New World! To be sure, he did not know that he had discovered a continent, but thought that he had reached the East Indies. Yet he had effectively answered his many critics, including high-ranking officials in both Portugal and Spain, who had claimed that his plan to reach land by sailing west from Europe was wholly impractical.

History is filled with stories of men who, like Columbus, clung stubbornly to ideas which went against the popular thinking of their times; yet who, in the face of derision and ridicule, proved they were right. Nearly everyone who has ventured to carve out new trails in any area of knowledge has been belittled or discouraged.

In the 17th century, Galileo met with ridicule when he declared that the earth moves about the sun. Some 200 years later, jeering crowds called Robert Fulton's steamboat "Fulton's Folly." Alexander Graham Bell's telephone was looked upon by many as an impractical toy. The Wright brothers, daring to contend that man need not be earthbound, were widely regarded for a time as crackpots.

To scoff at new ideas is a common human failing. Only 20 years ago, how many people really thought that within a few years they would be able to sit in their own living rooms and watch a Presidential inauguration as it took place hundreds or thousands of miles away? Even 10 years ago, the exploration of space seemed to most people only a subject for imaginative writers of fiction. Yet the U. S. government is now planning to launch a small satellite in space within the next 2 or 3 years.

It is dangerous and shortsighted to close one's mind to new concepts and ideas. Certainly this is one important lesson to be learned from the experiences of Columbus and countless other great men who have made vital contributions to human knowledge.

The age of geographical exploration on this planet is about over, but there are many other fields—science, industry, international affairs, and human relations—where the frontiers of human knowledge are continually being extended. When new ideas are put forth in these and other areas, let us weigh them carefully. They may turn out to be impractical, but the very least we can do is to consider them on their merits in a fair manner.

Just because an idea is new, we should not immediately assume that it is either good or bad. We should keep our minds open until convincing evidence one way or another is available.



Walter E. Myer

A Career for Tomorrow - - In Geophysics

GEOPHYSICS is one of the newer vocations which has grown up in the United States almost entirely since the 1920's. It uses the sciences of physics, mathematics, geology, and chemistry, along with the techniques of engineering, to determine and analyze the make-up and structure of the earth's surface, its atmosphere, and the depths of its seas.

Your duties, if you choose this field, will be varied. Many geophysicists hunt for new supplies of oil, natural gas, and metallic ores. Others search for underground water supplies, or decide what type of foundations are needed for the construction of huge dams, highways, and buildings. Still others study our atmosphere to find out the causes of weather changes, or make scientific studies of the seas.

Your qualifications should include an aptitude for mathematics and the sciences. Patience, a high degree of accuracy, and the ability to handle mechanical equipment are also needed. In addition, an aptitude for analyzing and interpreting scientific data is of the utmost importance.

Your training, while in high school, should include courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and other sciences. Next, you will be required to take at least 4 years of college study with a major in geophysics.

To advance in this vocation, you should plan on getting an M.A. or Ph.D. degree. The M.A. takes 1 to 2 years, and the Ph.D. takes 3 to 4 years of study after college. A reading

knowledge of at least one foreign language, usually French or German, is also required for the Ph.D. degree.

If you take advanced courses beyond the regular college program, you will specialize in some phase of geophysics such as *geophysical exploration*—searching for new oil or ore deposits; *geodesy*—surveying and drawing maps



GEOPHYSICIST examining a rock

of the earth's surface; *oceanography*—studying large bodies of water and analyzing their contents.

Job opportunities for persons trained in geophysics are expected to be very good for many years to come. Oil companies, ore mining industries, and other firms which use natural resources in their operations are looking for geophysicists. Uncle Sam also has many job openings for persons trained in this field.

Your salary, as a beginner with a B.A. or B.S. degree, is likely to be about \$3,700 a year. Persons with advanced degrees may start at a yearly salary of \$5,000 or more. The average income of experienced geophysicists ranges from \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year.

Advantages are (1) the work is usually stimulating and varied; (2) the pay is good; and (3) opportunities for advancement are excellent.

The chief disadvantage is the long and costly schooling needed for success in this vocation. However, a number of colleges offer scholarship opportunities. While in college, and later as a graduate student, you will also find many opportunities to do semi-professional work in your chosen field to help pay your way.

Women, as well as men, can have successful careers in geophysics.

Further information, including a list of schools that offer courses in geophysics, may be secured from the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, 624 S. Cheyenne, Tulsa 3, Oklahoma.

You can also get a pamphlet entitled "Geophysics as a Profession" from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Enclose 10 cents in coin.

Pronunciations

Eduardo Lonardi—äd-wär'dō lö-när'dē
Peron—pē-rawn'
Ruiz Cortines—rō-ēs' core-tē'nēs
Viet Nam—vē-ēt' nām'

News Quiz

Business and Agriculture

1. Give some facts which indicate that business and industry in the United States are now booming.
2. Is our country's total of installment credit rising slowly, moderately, or rapidly? Have home mortgages made much of an increase since World War II?
3. Point out some advantages of installment buying.
4. What are some of its principal dangers, for the individual and for the country as a whole?
5. List a few steps that our government has taken in an effort to keep the business boom from getting out of hand.
6. What are some of the indications that farmers are not sharing fully in the present wave of prosperity?
7. Tell what each major political party says about the current farm price situation.
8. Discuss the problem of surpluses in relation to the prices of farm products.

Discussion

1. Do you believe that the present rate of installment buying is creating a dangerous economic situation? Why, or why not?
2. What do you think can be done to help the farmers' prosperity catch up with that of other groups in our population?

Trade with the Reds

1. Name the major nations involved in the controversy over trade.
2. How do "strategic goods" figure in the trade dispute?
3. In what way have controls affected the volume of trade in recent years?
4. Why do some of our allies want more business with communist lands?
5. Tell why Soviet Russia favors more foreign commerce.
6. What views are advanced by Americans who favor increased trade with Red nations?
7. Give the arguments of those on the other side of this question.
8. Why does the United Nations play a key role in any decisions which may be made concerning more trade with Red China?

Discussion

1. The Reds tell our allies that they would be more prosperous were it not for trade controls favored by the U. S. How do you think we can offset such a statement?
2. Do you favor more trade at this time with the communist lands? Why, or why not?

Miscellaneous

1. Why are the Allies worried about Egypt's plan to buy arms from Red Czechoslovakia?
2. What is the Hall of Fame?
3. Who are Clement Attlee and Eduardo Lonardi?
4. Name 2 past Presidents who were unable, because of illness, to perform their official duties for a time.
5. Why are Cambodia, Israel, and Mexico in the news?
6. How old is the practice of installment buying in our country?

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Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (a) fanatic; 2. (b) superior to all others; 3. (c) very tiring; 4. (a) some of her land is hilly, while other parts are flat; 5. (b) tyrannical; 6. (a) be loyal and faithful to our country; 7. (c) is under military rule.

Historical Backgrounds - - Early Explorers

ABOUT 10 o'clock at night on October 11, 1492, several sailors under Christopher Columbus saw lights in the distance. The anxious crews of Columbus' 3 tiny vessels—the *Santa Maria*, *Niña*, and *Pinta*—were hoping against hope that land was near.

Before the dawn of the next day, the *Pinta's* cannon boomed—a signal that land had definitely been sighted. It was the first glimpse of land for the explorers since they had left the Canary Islands near Africa some 5 weeks before. That day, they landed on an island of the Bahamas.

Columbus, according to historians, wasn't the first explorer to reach the Western Hemisphere. Leif Ericson, a Norseman, sailed across the stormy Atlantic to a country he called Vinland about 500 years before Columbus. We still don't know for certain whether this Vinland was the coast of Labrador, Newfoundland, or New England. Historians are fairly agreed, though, that Ericson did reach the New World around the year 1000.

But the credit for opening the Western Hemisphere to European colonization belongs to Columbus. An Italian navigator, he took possession of the lands he found in the name of Spain. It was King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of that country who gave him ships and supplies for his voyage.

Columbus, who set out to find a new sea route to the East Indies and Asia, believed that the islands he found were not far from China. Though men soon knew that Columbus was wrong, the native inhabitants of the New World continued to be called Indians, and the

islands he discovered were named the West Indies.

Columbus crossed the Atlantic 4 times in all. He never achieved his goal of finding a new route to the Far East, but he explored many islands in the Caribbean Sea and he stopped off at several points on the South American mainland. After his last voyage he returned home a sick and disheartened man. He was shunned by the country for which he had sacrificed so



REPRODUCTION of the *Santa Maria*, the flagship which Christopher Columbus used on his famous voyage

much to explore new lands. Later, Spain built memorials to honor him.

After Columbus, some of the Spanish officers who had served under him continued to make voyages across the Atlantic. Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian merchant, made the trip as a passenger a number of times. Amerigo wrote exaggerated accounts of his voyages which became widely known in many European lands.

When a German geographer suggested that the newly discovered lands be named "America" in honor of the Italian merchant, the name quickly caught on. Thus, Columbus even lost out when it came to naming the New World.

Meanwhile, other explorers crossed the Atlantic. In 1497, John Cabot, an Italian who sailed for England, landed on what is now Nova Scotia. His explorations were later used by England in claiming large portions of the North American continent.

Ponce de Leon, in 1508, discovered Puerto Rico for Spain and later explored Florida—a name he gave to that peninsula. Five years later another Spaniard, Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, became the first known European explorer to view the broad Pacific.

In 1519, Spanish Ferdinand Magellan began a voyage which took him around the southern tip of South America and across the Pacific. Though he was killed in the Philippines, some of his men and ships completed the journey around the globe for the first time in history.

Giovanni Verazzano, an Italian navigator sailing for France, explored a large portion of our Atlantic coast in 1524. Historians believe that he was the first explorer to visit our coast from the Carolinas to Maine. A Frenchman, Jacques Cartier, explored large portions of Canada about the same time.

As time went by, Spain, France, England, and other European countries colonized the new lands which they claimed as their own.